

Name: _____

Date: _____

BE A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	A disciple’s life consists of spiritual growth and development. God requires His disciples to surrender their will to Him. Jesus learned obedience by the things that He suffered.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is seeking those who follow Him. He blesses His followers.
<i>Good Works</i>	Lay down my own will. Establish a daily quiet time to spend with God in Bible study and prayer.

A. Disciples of Christ

1. *A disciple is a learner:* The Latin word *discipulus* means “student,” or “learner,” meaning a disciple is someone who has the discipline of a student and the willingness to learn constantly. As disciples of Christ, no matter how long we live, we need to constantly learn and persistently grow in spiritual maturity through any circumstances and trials that we face.
2. *A disciple is a follower:* Jesus wasn’t just calling His new disciples to go wherever He went (Mk 1:17). He was calling them to follow whatever their teacher did or said. As Jesus’ disciples, we need to learn how to choose thoughtful, deliberate actions that follow His example.

If we are truly disciples of Christ, our primary goal will be to become more like Him, because He is not only our chosen master and teacher, but also our sovereign Lord (Rev 4:8, 11). The more time and attention we spend on being His disciple, the more God will guide us through life (Jer 29:13–14).

B. A True Disciple

Jesus once described what a true disciple must do: “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” (Mt 16:24)

1. *Deny yourself:* Denying ourselves means saying “no” to our own inner desires, and saying “yes” to God’s. It means saying, “Not by my will, but Yours,” and submitting to God’s way instead.
2. *Take up your cross:* This means being willing to suffer and die for Christ, which requires that we put to death any sin within us (Rom 8:13; Gal 5:24).
3. *Follow Jesus:* We follow Jesus by walking in His footsteps and always asking ourselves, “What would Jesus do?” This requires an understanding of His word, submission to His teachings, and a determination to follow His will.

Life Application: Becoming a Committed Disciple of Christ

1. *Laying aside our own will:* The world around us often says that “surrendering” is a bad thing, but for Jesus’ disciples, surrendering to Jesus is what leads us to victory over Satan and the greatest reward of eternal life at His side.
2. *Spending daily quiet time with God and His word:* Setting time aside for God each day is a way of inviting Him to meet with us and a way to show our desire for a closer relationship with Him.
3. *Communicating with God through daily prayer:* When we don’t put any effort into our prayers, we don’t receive anything from them. But when we do put consistent thought and effort into our prayers, God will give us an overwhelming response!

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Lesson 2 Homework Assignment

Be a True Disciple of Christ

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Luke 9:23):

1. Explain what Jesus meant by these three steps in your own words.
2. “For if you _____ according to the _____ you will _____; but if by the Spirit you put to _____ the deeds of the _____, you will _____.” (Romans 8:13)
3. If *discipulus* means “learner,” what does that mean for our spiritual lives as Jesus’ disciples?
4. What three basic qualities do we have to develop within ourselves to truly follow Jesus?
5. Pick a time of day to spend with God and make a determination to stick to this time for the entire week. For each day, write down what you did during your quiet time with God. It doesn’t have to be long at first. Try out the different methods of reading and prayer that we discussed during class!

Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	